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February 1952

Mr. Roger W. Jones
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference
Bureau of the Budget
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Jones:

This is in reference to your letter of 24 January 1952, requesting an expression of this Agency's views with respect to the proposed revision of Executive Order No. 9586 -- the Medal of Freedom.

The proposed revision extends the period in which the Medal of Freedom may be awarded to include any period of emergency declared by the President or the Congress to exist. However, from the standpoint of this Agency, in view of its responsibilities in the field of foreign intelligence, the national emergency is not coextensive with the opportunities for rendering services in the future which would merit the award of this Medal. It is, therefore, requested that an additional paragraph be inserted in the proposed revision immediately before the final paragraph with suggested wording as follows:

"In addition to the above, and under special circumstances without regard to the existence of a state of war or national emergency, the President may award, or direct the award of, the Medal of Freedom for the performance of a meritorious act or service in the best interests of the United States."

Sincerely yours,

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L. K. White
Acting Deputy Director
(Administration)

WLPforzheimer:blc/ds
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Comptroller